

State of Washington

Activity Summary By Agency

Agency: Office of Attorney General**2001-03 Biennium Estimated Expenditures**

| <u>General Fund</u> | | | | <u>Annual</u> |
|----------------------------|---------------------|----------------------|--|----------------------|
| <u>State</u> | <u>Other</u> | <u>Totals</u> | | <u>FTEs</u> |
| \$717,667 | \$1,135,708 | \$1,853,375 | | 8.2 |

Activity / Function: Agency Management/Administrative Support Services**Statewide Category:** Government Administration and Support

Purpose: The Attorney General is an elected statewide executive officer. Administration for the Attorney General's office maintains the dockets and central files of all litigation involving the state, provides legal support services, publishes formal legal opinions for distribution to state officials and public agencies, coordinates leasing and maintenance of offices for the attorneys, operates and maintains office computer services, and provides budgeting and accounting services and other miscellaneous support services to the agency and the Executive Ethics Board.

Other Funds: Legal Services Revolving Account

| | | | | |
|--|-----------|-------------|-------------|------|
| Activity / Function: Enforcement of Anti-Trust Laws | \$298,064 | \$1,786,000 | \$2,084,064 | 15.3 |
|--|-----------|-------------|-------------|------|

Statewide Category: Business, Employment and Consumer Services

Purpose: Staff in the Attorney General's office enforce state and federal laws against such anti-competitive practices as bid-rigging, price-fixing and market allocations. Staff also review mergers and acquisitions involving large corporations and significant segments of markets for potential antitrust problems.

Other Funds: Anti-Trust Revolving Account-Nonappropriated

| | | | | |
|---|-------------|-------------|-------------|------|
| Activity / Function: Enforcement of Consumer Protection Laws | \$6,822,523 | \$1,184,442 | \$8,006,965 | 76.3 |
|---|-------------|-------------|-------------|------|

Statewide Category: Business, Employment and Consumer Services

Purpose: The Attorney General's staff enforces state laws, recommends changes in existing state law and provides education to protect consumers and legitimate businesses from unfair or deceptive trade practices. In addition to investigations and litigation, the Office provides extensive information to consumers and businesses, and conciliates consumer/business disputes. The Office recovers restitution and civil penalties for the state and for individual consumers by processing complaints and litigation. The most frequent complaints involve landlord/tenant, mail order, motor vehicle purchase and repair, retail operations, home improvement, mobile homes, real estate, and collections. Under Washington State's Lemon Law, the Office processes and provides arbitration of consumers' complaints concerning new automobiles.

Other Funds: New Motor Vehicle Arbitration Account-State

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|---|---------------------|----------------------|----------------------|
| <u>General Fund</u> | | | <u>Annual</u> |
| <u>State</u> | <u>Other</u> | <u>Totals</u> | <u>FTEs</u> |
| \$303,852 | \$36,089,890 | \$36,393,742 | 0.0 |

Activity / Function: Investigation and Litigation of Tort Lawsuits**Statewide Category:** Government Administration and Support

Purpose: Staff of the Office of the Attorney General defend tort lawsuits brought against the state, its agencies, and employees under RCW 4.92. The majority of cases are based upon actions brought under theories of negligence in such things as highway design, release of inmates, slips and falls on state property, medical malpractice, child care and custody, auto accidents, false arrests and unreasonable force cases. Staff also handles employment law and personnel cases. The filing of lawsuits is outside the control of the office, and so all of the workload in this division is third-party driven; the state must either defend the lawsuit or default and pay the amount demanded.

Other Funds: Interagency Reimbursement with GA, LSRA

| | | | | |
|---|-----------|-------------|-------------|------|
| Activity / Function: Investigation and Prosecution of Medicaid Fraud | \$728,084 | \$3,124,125 | \$3,852,209 | 24.0 |
|---|-----------|-------------|-------------|------|

Statewide Category: Public Safety and Criminal Justice

Purpose: The Medicaid Fraud Control Unit within the Office of the Attorney General is federally mandated to investigate and prosecute crimes (usually fraud in charging practices) committed by Medicaid providers. It is the sole enforcement entity responsible for policing Medicaid expenditures. The Unit is also involved in investigating nursing home patient abuse and neglect cases. The state agencies which the Unit works with and serves include the Department of Social and Health Services - Division of Medical Assistance, the Department of Health, and the Department of Licensing. This activity is 75 percent federally funded.

Other Funds: General Fund-Federal, Public Safety and Education Account-State

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| <u>2001-03 Biennium Estimated Expenditures</u> | | | |
|--|---------------|---------------|---------------|
| <u>General Fund</u> | | | <u>Annual</u> |
| <u>State</u> | <u>Other</u> | <u>Totals</u> | <u>FTEs</u> |
| \$2,683,260 | \$116,861,759 | \$119,545,019 | 956.6 |

Activity / Function: Legal Services to State Agencies**Statewide Category:** Government Administration and Support

Purpose: The public policy of Washington State has been to maintain a unified public law office for representing state agencies. This policy is founded on the notion that there is a value to the citizens of the state in having legal services provided by a unified office rather than in a fragmented manner at the discretion of each agency. This policy reflects a distinct value in having consistency in the advice provided to all state agencies, and in legal issues being analyzed and interpreted in light of the collective interests of the state and its citizens, rather than the interests of any single government agency. The Office of the Attorney General provides legal advice and representation to over 230 state agencies, boards and commissions, which collectively have a broad range of program responsibility. Support for agency programs includes representing them in litigation as well as providing them with legal advice on issues such as personnel, contracts and public records, and specialized program advice. Some of the program responsibilities supported by the Office include state/federal benefit programs administered by state agencies, state licensing and regulatory programs, state agency custodial programs, higher education institutions, natural resources programs, state agency capital construction and equipment acquisitions, state agency revenue and collection programs, and economic development/enterprise activities.

Other Funds: Legal Services Revolving Account, Tobacco Prevention/ Control Account

| | | | | |
|---|-------------|-------------|-------------|------|
| Activity / Function: Special Criminal Investigation and Litigation | \$1,383,912 | \$1,579,353 | \$2,963,265 | 20.4 |
|---|-------------|-------------|-------------|------|

Statewide Category: Public Safety and Criminal Justice

Purpose: The Attorney General's staff investigate and/or bring criminal charges upon request from the Governor, a prosecuting attorney, or a legislative committee against those who have violated certain criminal statutes. Cases include governmental corruption, white-collar crime having a multi-county or statewide impact, organized crime, and other cases with special circumstances. The Office's staff also provide legal advice and training to criminal justice professionals through the Washington State Criminal Justice Training Commission, and handles civil commitment proceedings for sexual predators and others. In addition, this activity includes management of the state's Homicide Investigation and Tracking System (HITS). The system has over 5.1 million pieces of information relating to violent crimes, and has provided local law enforcement with vital information in over 800 murder and sexual assault investigations statewide.

Other Funds: Public Safety and Education Account-State

| | | | | | | |
|------------------------|---|---------------|--------------|---------------|---------------|---------|
| Total Reported: | 7 | TOTALS | \$12,937,362 | \$161,761,277 | \$174,698,639 | 1,100.8 |
|------------------------|---|---------------|--------------|---------------|---------------|---------|